#### THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY

SUMMER/FALL 2004

State of California • Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger Business, Transportation and Housing Agency • Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak

Office of Traffic Safety • Deputy Director Christopher J. Murphy

# California rolls out \$74.2 million in traffic safety grants

alifornia rolled out \$74.2 School Seat Belt Challenges, million in federal traffic safety grants this summer to 277 state departments and communities, a strong signal that California is committed toward higher seat belt use rates and reducing the number of people killed in alcohol-involved crashes.

The new grants, awarded by Business, Transportation & Housing Agency Secretary, Sunne Wright McPeak, include the largest-ever allocation to cities and counties: \$50.3 million to fund programs that range from innovative efforts targeting repeat DUI offenders, high school education programs such as Real DUI Trials, High

and Reality Check, and funds to purchase critical life-saving extrication tools for fire departments such as Jaws of Life and medical equipment.

"Getting solid resources into the hands of traffic safety professionals is a vital tool in the fight against needless injuries and deaths," said Secretary McPeak. "Clearly, these grants showcase resultsdriven programs that save lives."

Among the grant highlights were: An award of \$990,000 to several Los Angeles County hospitals that will fund child safety seat education to caregivers, and parents of newborns and includes the distribution of 18,000 child safety and booster seats.

Fresno Police Department will use \$529,348 to design and implement a stakeout program targeting the "worst of the worst" multiple DUI offenders and by hiring a District Attorney for identification, tracking and prosecution.

In addition, California State University (CSU) campuses will put to work a \$750,000 grant for programs designed to reduce alcohol abuse and alcohol-related crashes. CSU will issue a series of mini-grants to its campuses to promote anti-DUI initiatives created by campus Alcohol Advisory Councils.

And, the Sacramento Police Department will direct \$677,000 to implement a "HOT Sheet" surveillance program targeting repeat DUI offenders who continue to drive while on probation and DUI warrant service patrols focusing on repeat DUI offenders who fail to appear in court. This grant provides funds to conduct frequent DUI checkpoints and special patrols to conduct inspections of vehicles suspected of having illegal street racing equipment. The police department will also bring Real DUI Trials to area high schools.

A complete listing of all grants can be found at www.ots.ca.gov.

# \$5 million in sobriety checkpoint grants available

\$5 million sobriety checkpoint program for local law enforcement — the largest such allocation of its kind in the nation — is available for the You Drink & Drive. You Lose sobriety checkpoint program, through the Office of Traffic Safety. The allocation is \$2 million more than the last cycle.

The program is designed to reduce the number of people killed in alcohol-involved crashes through the combined effort of the California Highway Patrol, local law enforcement and the Office of Traffic Safety.

Frequent sobriety checkpoints have proven to be an effective way to maximize the deterrent effect and increase the perception of apprehension of motorists who would operate a vehicle while impaired by alcohol.

Cities with populations greater than 20,000 are eligible grant recipients. Those agencies that currently have checkpoints funded in an existing OTS grant are eligible to participate as long as the checkpoints are over and above the checkpoints identified in their existing grant.

The mini-grants are for overtime costs to conduct sobriety checkpoints during a 15-month period, which encompasses three key campaign mobilization periods: December 2004 through January 2005; August 2005 through September 2005; and, December 2005 through January 2006.

Further information can be found on the OTS Web site at www.ots.ca.gov.

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# Secretary's Message



BT&H Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak

his fall, 277 statewide agencies and communities will begin to put into place \$74.2 million in traffic safety grants I announced in June that are designed to save lives through reduced collisions

and injuries. The grants include the largestever allocation to cities and counties: \$50.3 million.

Simply, these grants represent evidencebased, results-driven programs that work and make the most sense for California.

In the coming months, the Office of Traffic Safety will proactively seek cities with significant traffic safety problems that have not historically submitted grant proposals.

Motor vehicle collisions are the No. 1 killer in California of people of all age groups, and alcohol plays a large part. Youth drinking, in particular, goes hand in hand with impaired driving. Surveys suggest that 40 to 50 percent of teens said that they

have ridden in a vehicle driven by a drug- or alcohol-impaired driver.

That's why the Office of Traffic Safety will fund an expansion of youth education opportunities such as "Real DUI Trials" and "Every 15 Minutes" programs at local high schools. First conducted in Santa Clara County under an OTS pilot program two years ago, Real DUI trials give students a first-hand look at how a DUI defendant is prosecuted and sentenced.

To meet the challenge of stemming four consecutive years of increased deaths and injuries resulting from alcohol-involved crashes, we're targeting proven resources on a number of other fronts: increasing the state's network of highly-effective "AVOID" programs, where law enforcement agencies join forces to target the drinking driver through increased sobriety checkpoints, a verified DUI deterrent; additional DUI patrols and warrant service operations targeting multiple DUI offenders.

Safety professionals will benefit by advances in data collection technology. For example, Geographical Information Systems-based collision analysis can identify where various types of collisions occur so that law enforcement can better target their coverage. GIS dramatically reduces time requirements for compiling the data, enabling engineers to focus their energies on decision making instead of data compilation. And, the University of California Davis Medical Center will use a new OTS grant to address and expand screening and interventions with admitted trauma patients with a positive blood alcohol level. The Trauma Emergency Nurses, over this two-year period, will partner with local high schools, colleges and organizations to enact peripheral educational programs, "Trauma Nurses Talk Tough" and Emergency Nurses Association, "Dares to Care" alcohol prevention programs in the community.

OTS is also funding officer training for local law enforcement to identify illegally-modified vehicles. These grants are designed to decrease the incidence of illegal street racing in California. This program,

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#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

Sunne Wright McPeak, Secretary

OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY Christopher J. Murphy, *Deputy Director* Mike Marando. *Editor* 

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http://www.ots.ca.gov

OTS Tracks Volume 19, Issue 2 Summer/Fall 2004



#### CA to conduct nation's first teen seat belt survey

alifornia is upping the ante when it comes to seat belt use.

In 2004, the Golden State will become the first state in the nation to conduct a statewide seat belt use survey of teen drivers. The survey, being taken this spring at selected locations throughout California, will collect data on school-aged seat belt use, and survey the seat belt use of teens whose parents routinely buckle up.

Of teenage vehicle occupants killed in traffic collisions in California during 2002, 72 percent were not wearing seat belts, according to the California Highway Patrol.

"Increasing seat belt use among teens will be a top priority in the years moving forward," said OTS Deputy Director Christopher J. Murphy. "Collision rates among teen drivers are the highest of any age group, and a survey like this will be a good first step in long-term solutions."

California has the highest seat belt use rate among the seven most populated states in the country; third-highest rate overall (91.2 percent), and fifth-highest rate for occupants killed in motor vehicle crashes. NHTSA estimates that of the 1,336 unbelted California vehicle occupants killed in 2002, 601 would have survived had they simply chosen to buckle up.

Results of the study are expected to be released in October.

#### 'Secretary' from Page 2

coupled with legal alternatives to street racing, will curb needless deaths and injuries.

Seat belts saved an estimated 14,385 lives nationally in 2003, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Research has proven that by buckling up, drivers and passengers cut their risk of dying in a car crash by nearly half. Even though California has among the highest seat belt use rates in the nation at 91.2 percent, the remaining 8.8 percent account for 3 million people who are not "working the buckle."

That's why I am directing more than \$4.5 million toward statewide seat belt enforcement mobilizations and programs. Included is the California Seat Belt

Compliance Campaign, which combines high-visibility traffic enforcement, media messages, and community education and outreach during weeklong mobilizations in August and September, through Labor Day weekend. The Campaign funds overtime for officers to concentrate solely on seat belt safety enforcement.

And, in July, OTS also approved a \$5 million sobriety checkpoint program for local law enforcement, the largest such allocation of its kind.

Looking ahead, I'm excited about the many products and innovations that will be used to save lives on our roadways because the costs to society from dangerous driving are just too high. Together, we can put a stop to it.

# Carter loved to educate



en Carter used his talents as a magician, a storyteller and a motivational speaker to conduct traffic safety programs for more than 20 years. Carter passed away

from complications due to lung cancer on April 28 at the age of 71.

He is best known for performing magic tricks for young people, demonstrating the importance of being aware of your surroundings in traffic, and he used his storytelling talents to emphasize the point with older adults.

Carter became interested in traffic safety education when he saw a bicycle rodeo put on by bicycle safety advocate SafeMoves at a local community fair. "He asked for my card and called soon after that asking if he could help," recalls Pat Hines, the executive director of SafeMoves. Carter volunteered his time doing magic tricks including pouring milk into a bicycle helmet for a year. From there, he became a paid instructor that led to a 16-year affiliation with SafeMoves.

Carter often said that his audiences gave him so much to live for. From the smiles on the faces of those he spoke to, you knew how much he gave them.

Carter will be missed by his family, friends and colleagues at SafeMoves and the thousands of children and older adults whose lives were touched by his teachings and sense of humor.

# California eyes higher seat belt use

alifornia has its sights set to reach a 94 percent seat belt use rate by 2005.

The Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) will be awarding \$2.5 million in mini-grants in connection with the California Seat Belt Compliance Campaign, designed to focus public attention and enforcement on those who fail to use seat belts during the May/June 2005 *Buckle Up America* national mobilization. The mini-grants — increased by \$500,000 over last year's program — pay to offset overtime and reporting costs for seat belt enforcement.

In October 2004, OTS will be requesting mini-grant applications from local law enforcement agencies. Applications are due by December 3, 2004.

A mini-grant covers actual overtime costs for supervisors (Sergeants and Corporals), officers, dispatchers and administrative costs (Community Services Officers (CSO) or Clerical) during the mobilization time period.

Supervisors and Officers must be assigned solely to seat belt enforcement duties,

dispatchers to the enforcement overtime shifts and the CSO or Clerical to minigrant administrative duties. Each agency is eligible for a maximum mini-grant amount for 3 weeks total overtime enforcement based upon their city's population.

The state is building upon a recent string of successes that may bode well for a surge in seat belt use. Pre-May mobilization survey numbers released in June suggested that California is well-positioned to pass its current 91.2 percent use rate.

For further information, contact Don Uelmen at 916/262-1755, or, log on to the OTS Web site at www.ots.ca.gov for the mini-grants application.

# Save the date!

**OTS Summit — May 1–4, 2005** 

Hyatt Manchester Grand Hotel, San Diego, CA

# Grantees Sharing the Road 🔨

#### SANTA MONICA PD RECRUITS STAR FOR PSA

The City of Santa Monica has enlisted one of its own — actress June Lockhart — in a traffic safety video PSA. One of the objectives of the Santa Monica Police



Actress June Lockhart lends her support to the Santa Monica Police Department by staring in a traffic safety video PSA targeting the senior community.

Department's grant is the production of a traffic safety education video and a public service announcement for the senior community to be aired on cable television and other venues. This educational tool is one of the city's answers to the tragedy suffered by this community at the Farmers Market in 2003. The department's staff crafted the scripts, secured the production team and enlisted a talented group of dedicated citizens and city employees to collaborate on this important task. Who says traffic safety isn't out of this world?

#### BARSTOW FPD AWARDED EXTRICATION GRANT

OTS grantee Barstow Fire Protection District, located in San Bernardino County, is the EMS coalition host for a new \$195,656 collision rescue grant involving, in addition to itself, the volunteer first responding agencies Yermo Community Services District, Daggett Community Services District and Newberry Springs Community Services District. These agencies routinely roll to crash scenes along I-15, I-40 and I-395. Prior to this grant, the volunteer agencies had very little in the way

of rescue equipment aside from rudimentary crowbars. Many of the crashed vehicles are newer models with advanced, stronger alloys, and airbags installed in different places, not just the steering wheel, hence the hazards are plentiful.

Jointly, the four agencies trained on the use of extrication and air bag lifting systems to learn how to cut through these modern alloys, protect against airbags triggering and safely free victims trapped in crumbled or overturned vehicles. One firefighter stated, "If a firefighter gets hurt during a rescue, they become a part of the problem and not part of the solution."

#### SEAT BELT COMPLIANCE PROGRAM PRODUCES MORE THAN A FEW TICKETS

Officers from the Moreno Valley Police Department — on patrol for seat belt violators as part of the OTS' annual seat belt compliance program — did a little more than writing a few seat belt tickets. While on patrol, the officers arrested two suspects who were charged with robbing a local Hollywood Video. Officer Ron McGowan heard the description of the suspects and headed for the freeway, and immediately

observed the getaway vehicle. Upon seeing McGowan, Suspect 1 pulled over immediatley. The second suspect jumped out of the back seat, threw down a handgun, and ran to an apartment complex, where officer Chad Craig made the arrest. Sgt. Dave Fontneau saw the vehicle, made the stop, and arrested the second suspect and recovered the \$6,000 cash. Both suspects were on parole and linked to several other armed robberies. While Suspect 1 received a citation for not wearing a seat belt, Sgt. Fontneau said that he and the two other officers would not have been in the area had it not been for the seat belt overtime enforcement.

#### DUI PACE CAR LANDS IN SAN DIEGO

The San Diego DUI PACE Car Program is up and running and wowing them at the schools. This innovative program pairs law enforcement (SDPD) with



The DUI Pace Car program pairs San Diego law enforcement with community-based organizations to present a hands-on approach to DUI education.

community based organizations (Pacific Safety Council in San Diego) to present a hands-on approach to DUI Education and Awareness. Since October, 2003, this interactive program has presented to over 1,800 people, including the Miramar Air Show and the Riverside County

"Partners in Prevention 2004" Conference in Palm Springs. They are scheduled to present at the "Safety N Kids" Traffic Summit in May.

#### DUI CAPSULE REPORT AIRED

California Connected, a weekly news magazine program broadcast on PBS stations across California, aired a DUI capsule report in April and is planning a follow-up report in July or August. The program will focus on Real DUI Trials, held at high schools in Santa Clara County. California Connected filed its report from Pioneer High School, reports event organizer and spokeswoman, Christina Oshinsky, of the Santa Clara County Public Health Department.

#### AND THE WINNER IS . . .

And, word from the Injury Prevention Coalition of Shasta County (IPCSC) is that Shasta High School has won

the 2004 High School Seat Belt Challenge. "Both Enterprise High and Shasta High did a tremendous job with getting the 'Buckle Up' message out to their students, and should be proud of the work they did to raise seat belt awareness," said

Candace McHatton, coalition member and Community Education Specialist at Shasta County Public Health. "We would like to congratulate Shasta High's student coordinators Jessica Stopher and Caitlin Langley and their Key Club members on winning this year's Seat Belt Challenge." Shasta High will receive a check for \$500, and Enterprise High will receive \$200. Each school's student coordinators will receive gift certificates to the Mt. Shasta Mall. The winning high school was chosen based on highest seat belt usage rate, most improved usage rate, and best overall campaign.

#### SD YOUTH COUNCIL TARGETS IRRESPONSIBLE MARKETING PRACTICES

The San Diego County Youth Council successfully kicked of a Cinco de Mayo campaign with a media event at the NBC 7/39

studios in downtown San Diego on April 30, 2004. Two days later they rode a youth-designed float adorned with traffic safety messages, underage drinking statistics and campaign slogans in what has become the

largest Cinco de Mayo con Orgullo parade and festival in the nation. The campaign was aimed at raising public awareness about the irresponsible marketing practices of the alcohol industry, specifically its use of cultural holidays as a way to promote its dangerous products. For example, one Youth Council member held up a sign that read Nuestra Cultura No Se Vende — "Our Culture is Not for Sale." The campaign also emphasized the high rates of alcohol-related traffic fatalities within the Latino community. The San Diego



Students at Shasta High School celebrate winning the 2004 High School Seat Belt Challenge with an NBC TV reporter.

County Youth
Council is a diverse
group of young
leaders whose
mission is to combat
mixed messages
about alcohol that
youth hear everyday
through radio,
TV, magazines,
billboards and
other media.



Traffic Safety Network offers twice-a-month fitting stations at the San Diego Police Department and monthly check-ups at various locations in San Diego County.

#### WORKING TO MAKE SAN DIEGO SAFE

The Traffic Safety Network, working to make San Diego safe, continues to move forward with twice-a-month child safety seat fitting stations at the San Diego Police Department and monthly check-ups at various locations in San Diego County. The Network welcomed Sit Safe, who works with Volkswagen dealerships, in April to help teach a CPS technician certification class and has also began forming other partnerships throughout

the county. For example, the Network has formed a partnership with Think First San Diego regarding a booster seat grant that they received from NHTSA. The Network continues to schedule presentations to various groups regarding child passenger safety and has presented to various community corporations, as well as the New Mom Classes at Miramar Marine Corps Air Station and Mommy and Me clubs in Coronado and Mission Bay.

# Baseball, soccer, hockey and entertainment take traffic safety to fans



CHiPper, Crash Test Dummies Vince and Larry, CHP Commander Sherrell Sutherland and members of the LA Galaxy pose for a quick photo before the game gets underway against the Metro Stars in June.

n the heels of eight successful years of sports marketing programs, OTS continues the momentum in the third and fourth quarters of 2004. Recognizing the value of partnering with professional sports teams to reach Californians with important traffic safety messages since 1995, OTS' upcoming event schedule is sure to be a winner.

In addition to special "Traffic Safety Days" with the Fresno Grizzlies, the Sacramento River Cats, the Los Angeles Galaxy, Anaheim Angels, San Diego Padres and San Jose Earthquakes, OTS also participated in music concerts at the Sleep Train Amphitheatre in northern California and will take part in the annual 2004 Fleet Week festivities in San Francisco in the fall.

OTS' innovative Sports Marketing and Entertainment Program provides a means of reaching the primary target audiences of males 18–34 years of age, who are consistently over represented in traffic crashes. With cumulative attendance of more than 100,000 expected at these events, OTS is sure to make a big impact.

Go to www.ots.ca.gov/campaigns/sports2004.asp for a list of OTS sports marketing and entertainment calendar of events.

## **New TV PSA promotes tripling of seat belt fines**

he OTS has a new addition to the arsenal of tools being used to encourage seat belt use — particularly among the 'hard to reach' group of motorists who remain unbelted. In January of this year, the fine for a seat belt violation in California tripled as a result of AB 1625 (Benoit). As a result, fines now run anywhere between \$78 and \$89 depending on the county.

Until now, little has been done to promote the tripling of the fines among the general public. As yet another means of promoting seat belt use, while simultaneously informing the public about the new fines, OTS created a new television PSA, Baggy Pants. "The spot uses a nontraditional approach from your typical traffic safety message," says OTS Marketing and Communications Manager Mike Marando. "The heavy-handed, in-your-face approach has been done repeatedly. Baggy Pants comes at the viewer from a completely different angle — peaking interest, holding your attention and then delivering the punch."

The spot aired in the Sacramento market June 21st-July 5th leading up to the Fourth of July holiday. It's also being distributed as a PSA to 69 English and 23 Spanish television stations statewide. To view Baggy Pants, visit the OTS Web site at www.ots.ca.gov.



The "Baggy Pants" television PSA will air in the Sacramento market over Labor Day weekend in early September.

## Florida program reaches out

any young drivers do not understand the consequences of not buckling up, drinking and driving, or getting into the vehicle of someone who has been drinking. Without a realistic picture of the consequences, many underestimate, or neglect to consider, the severity and potential danger of these actions, but the Florida Staying Alive from Education (S.A.F.E.) program is an exceptional example of the

number of students that can be reached through a powerful and impactful presentation on the results of irresponsible actions and decisions.

OTS is excited to share this educational program from our friends in the state of Florida, and California grantees may be able utilize this program in local schools and communities — at little or no cost. Florida S.A.F.E. is a dramatic and gripping

program that takes young adults into the real-life drama experienced by fire fighters and paramedics as they work to save the lives of youth who have made poor decisions when it comes to drinking or using drugs and then driving. The presentation relies on factual information to help youth understand the consequences of irresponsible actions.

OTS encourages grantees to find out more about

the Florida S.A.F.E. program to determine if it would be a good fit in your community. Thus far, the program has reached more than 56,000 students and OTS believes it has the potential to be very beneficial to students in California.

For more information visit www.safeprogram.com or email Vince Easevoli, Executive Director, at vince@safeprogram.com.

#### TRACE tracks down alcohol sales to minors

etting information on alcoholrelated fatalities involving minors into the hands of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) just got easier.

The Target Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies (TRACE) program was developed to provide a faster protocol for law enforcement agencies to follow while sharing information on deaths involving minors. Under the program, businesses caught providing liquor to under-age drinkers will face prosecution, including the loss of their liquor license. ABC has created a policy directive and will work with law enforcement agencies throughout the state to ensure TRACE is implemented in all communities.

This year, the new approach was unveiled by Attorney General Bill Lockyer during the 2004 Teenwork conference in Santa Clara.

Although Teenwork was founded 20 years ago with a focus on the problem

of underage drinking and driving, the organization has evolved to become a forum for California youth to discuss critical issues facing teens today, including alcohol, drugs, gang violence and teen pregnancy.

The Teenwork Conference is held in connection with the California Friday Night Live Partnership and is supported by the Office of Traffic Safety, Tulare County office of Education, and California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs.

#### **OTS earns PR kudos**

he Office of Traffic Safety's public affairs department was recognized in May for outstanding media and marketing work by the California State Information Officers Council (SIOC).

OTS earned the Grand Prize in Media campaigns for its Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month effort; the Gold Award for Outstanding Media Coverage; and, two Silver Awards for the 2002 Annual Report and seat belt radio PSAs.

"These awards reflect a team effort — everyone at OTS contributed in some fashion to these campaigns," said Mike Marando, marketing and public affairs director.

The Grand Prize in Media Campaigns was the third straight year OTS has garnered such an award from SIOC.

#### **OTS** receives Rainmaker Award

he Pacific Safety Council presented its annual Rainmaker Award this spring to the Office of Traffic Safety for its many ongoing contributions in the area of safety and education to the communities of Southern California.

The Rainmaker Award acknowledges those organizations whose efforts and influences initiate progress and betterment to ensure success in the area of safety.

The Pacific Safety Council is a non-profit, non-governmental, educational organization. Since 1953, the Council's on-site training programs have made it one of the premier training resources in California. Last year, the Council trained over 6,189 individuals in occupational safety and motorcycle safety training programs. In addition, the Council reached over 36,000 people in community safety outreach efforts. With your continued support, we will continue to make a difference together!

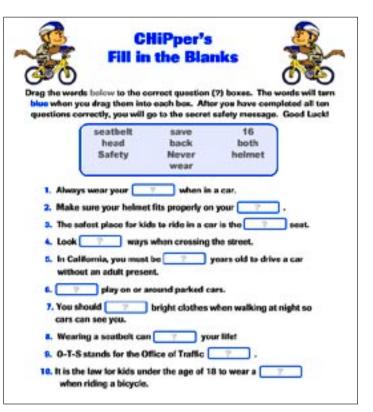
# **Online traffic safety games educate youth**

s you probably know, the OTS Web site is a great resource for adults, highlighting many of OTS'grant programs, events, campaigns and coalitions. The site can be used to download grant application packages, check out the latest traffic safety calendar of events and find out about upcoming seat belt and DUI mobilizations. But you may not know that the OTS Web site is also a great place for kids and teens to learn about traffic safety through several fun

activities and games, including the rules of the road when riding a bike and zero tolerance laws for teen drivers.

Some of the site's most popular games are Chipper's Traffic Safety Games, which include a crossword puzzle, a word find and a fill-in-the-blanks activity. These games put kids and teens' traffic safety smarts to the test. If youth know their street smarts and obey the safety laws, Chipper will reward them with a "Traffic Safety Expert" certificate.





So, get your sons and daughters, nieces and nephews and other young people to put on their traffic safety thinking caps and check out the games at www.ots.ca.gov/kids/k\_games.html. The games, most of which can also be

downloaded and duplicated as needed, are also a great resource for teachers who are looking for ways to integrate traffic safety into the classroom.

The games are available in English and Spanish. •

## **CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF TRAFFIC SAFETY**

August 26–28 National Leadership Conference

San Diego, CA

San Diego Sheraton Hotel

Web site: www.dgimeetings.com/NLC

September 26–29 Governor's Highway Safety Association (GHSA)

**Annual Meeting** 

Honolulu, HI

For further information: Jonathan Adkins, 202/789-0942

September 27–29 California Conference on Childhood Injury Control

San Francisco, CA

San Francisco Airport Marriott

For further information: 619/594-3691

November 7–10 **Police Traffic Services Conference** 

Palm Desert, CA

For further information: David Doucette, 916/262-0957

Late November/ OTS Grant Writing Workshops

Early December Various locations

Look for details on the OTS Web site soon.

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